

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02964 121634Z

71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /051 W

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R 121358Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7648
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2964

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN BLACKLISTING OF JOURNALISTS

REF: (A) BEIRUT 4044 (B) DAMASCUS 2822,

1. TOLD FONMIN KHADDAM MAY 11 I UNDERSTOOD THAT THREE U.S. JOURNALISTS HAD RECENTLY BEEN PLACED ON SYRIAN BLACKLIST. SAID I WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH REASONS FOR THIS ACTION BUT WANTED TO SHARE PERSONAL OPINION WITH FONMIN THAT:

(A) SYRIA HAS GAINED IMMENSELY BY OPEN DOOR POLICY FOR JOURNALISTS WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE IN 1974.
(B) EACH MAN REPORTEDLY BLACKLISTED REPRESENTS IMPORTANT U.S. MEDIA OUTLET. (WASH POST, LA TIMES, AP).
(C) ANY DECISION TO BLACKLIST THESE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW.

2. FONMIN REPLIED HE AGREED WITH EACH POINT AND ASKED THAT I FURNISH HIS SECRETARY NAMES OF THOSE BLACKLISTED AND HE WOULD TAKE MATTER UP WITH MINISTER OF INFORMATION.

3. WHILE DECISION TO BLACKLIST MAY NOT HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN MININFO, IT CAN ONLY HELP TO HAVE KHADDAM WEIGH IN ON THIS ONE.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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